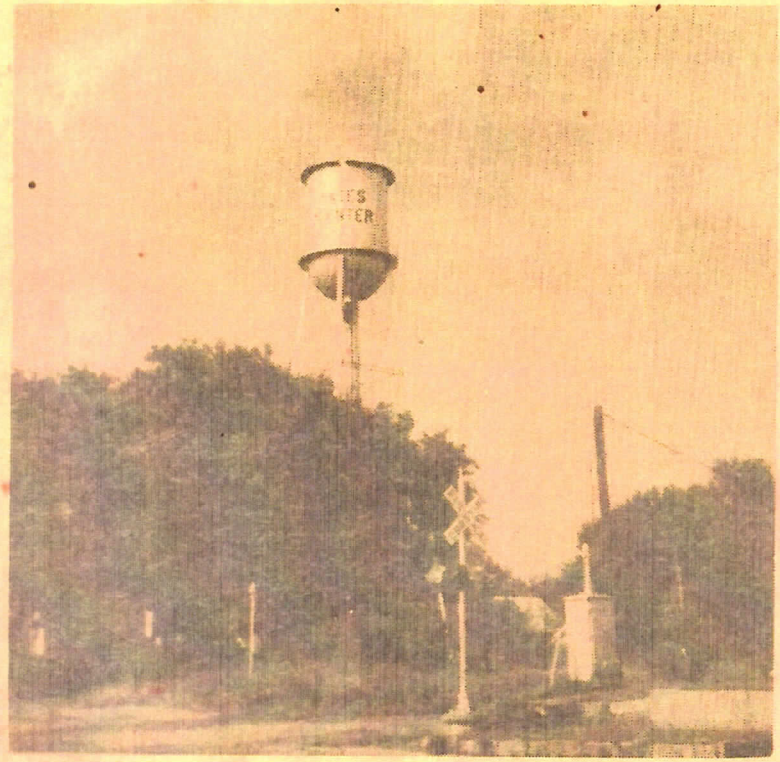
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 10 - No. 38

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 10 - No. 38 April - 1977

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES —

In the tenth year of publication of this historical quarterly we would like to say something about the people who have been the publishers since the beginning.

The Norman Printers of Iola, printed Vol. 1, No. 1, and continued into the tenth year, and are still at it. However, they were known as the Allen County News-Journal at the beginning. We have been well pleased with their work.

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The idea we had of marking with a red ink, for those who had not paid their subscription to "In The Beginning", brought in quite a few renewals, but there are also quite a number that have not paid for 1977. For those that we must send through the mail we cannot send any more until the subscription is paid, as the subscription does not pay for the cost of mailing. We would like to keep our present number of subscribers, but we must depend upon our readers to do this. If you have not yet paid your subscription this will be the last issue you will receive until your 1977 subscription is paid.

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At the present time the temporary date for the dedication of the log cabin on the Woodson County Historical Museum site will be on Memorial Day, 1977.

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The Yates Center Garden Club, has volunteered to help in the landscaping of the area around the log cabin. Several loads of dirt were hauled in and leveled with help from the county and city workers. This area has been seeded to grass.

We hope to make this Museum and cabin area a place for the county and city to be proud of. The Bicentennial and the members of the Historical Society have done much planning and work on this project.

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$2.50 per year 65 cents a copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The first meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society for 1977 was held on January 25 at the Woodson House. The Nominating Committee chaired by Mrs. Avis Ireland, presented the following names to be the officers of the Historical Society for the next two years. President-Lester A. Harding; Vice President-Virgil Winfrey; Secretary-Mrs. Helen Herring; Treasurer-Elmer F. Krueger. Directors elected for six year terms were-Mrs. Faye Hibbard and W. Kenneth Stockebrand.

The entertainment program was presented by Mrs. Geraldine Town with a medley of appropriate songs.

There were 53 present for the dinner served smorgasbord style.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAN

G.A. (Gus) Fulhage 97 February 2, 1977

Mr. Fulhage was a life-long resident of Woodson County, living his entire life on the same farm on Owl Creek just to the east of Yates Center. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson Co. Historical Society.

* * * * *

WATER TOWER AT YATES CENTER — Visable from many miles in most any direction is the large water tower built in 1906. While not on the highest spot in the town the entire tower rises about 137 feet above the ground. The tower itself is 101 feet high. Four heavy posts are embedded in solid cement. 90 1/2 feet to bottom of the tank. The bowl shaped bottom being 10 1/2 feet deep. The body of the bowl is 24 1/2 feet high, 21 feet across making the waterline 125 feet from the ground and 137 feet to extreme top of conical cover, and 8 inch roder pipe carries the water to and from the tower. This is covered with a frost proof casing of wood and galvanized steel with sawdust packing. Roy Mertz, a well known man about town for several years in that decade.

* * * * *

Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 a year

THE LAIDLAW FAMILIES –

Thomas L. Laidlaw was born at Andes, Delaware County New York, in May, 1829. In 1850 at the age of twenty-one years he left New York, and went to Casterville, Canada West. On June 1, 1854, Thomas Laidlaw was married to Mrs. Catherine Laidlaw, a widow with three children.

Thomas L. and Catherine Laidlaw were the parents of four children, a daughter, and three sons, John W., H.T., and Charles. They had moved to Sparta, Ontario, Canada, along the north coast of Lake Erie.

H.T. Laidlaw was born at Sparta, Canada, 1861. That same year the Laidlaw family moved to Pawnee Station, near Fort Scott, in Bourbon County. Twenty years later in 1881, Catherine Laidlaw died and was buried in Fort Scott.

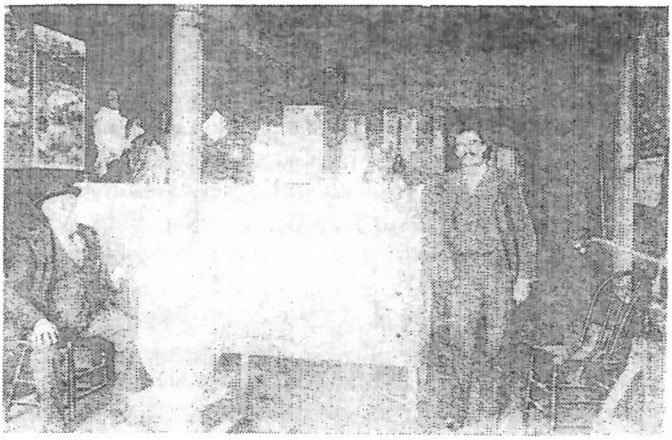
On December 18, 1883, Thomas L. Laidlaw was married to Mrs. Louisa Drinkmore, of Fort Scott, but was a native of Taswell County, Virginia. The following year the Laidlaw family moved to Yates Center.

During the summer of 1884, Thomas L. Laidlaw established the wholesale baled hay firm of Thos. L. Laidlaw and Sons, as H.T. and Charles had come to Yates Center with him. This hay business grew as the years went by into one of the largest individual hay firm shippers in southeast Kansas. After Thomas Laidlaw died in 1906, his son H.T. or Bert as he was better known, carried on in the hay business, harvesting many acres of hay meadows buying and selling extensively. His hay business was not only in Woodson County but in the surrounding trade area.

* * * * *

The coming to Woodson County in 1884 was not the first time that Thomas Laidlaw had come to the county. About 1859, he had made an exploration trip to Kansas. Evidently coming to Ft. Scott and then to the small village of Humboldt. Going by horseback he came west up the Owl Creek Valley. Coming out of the lowlands of the South Branch of Owl Creek there were no trees almost as far as he could see. One exception was a lone cottonwood tree that grew along one of the branches of South Owl. In later years this cottonwood tree stood as other trees grew around it, and like a sentinel it towered above the other timber until just a few years ago it died, but still stood there going way past the one hundred year mark. Some of the old tree can still be found.

After exploring the country Thomas returned to his home in Canada, until coming back in 1861.



Office of Thomas Laidlaw & Sons Wholesale Hay Co., that was located on the west part of the block west of the State Exchange Bank. Thomas Laidlaw is seated and a son, Charles Laidlaw is on the right, who was for a while a member of the firm.

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Hubert Thomas "Bert" Laidlaw, was born at Sparta, Canada in 1861. This same year the Laidlaw family came to Pawnee Station, an Indian encampment near Ft. Scott, in Bourbon County. Here "Bert" grew up among the Indians on this reservation.

Coming to Yates Center with his parents in 1884, he continued in the baled hay business with his father and brother. On October 22, 1889, H.T. Laidlaw was married to Annie Knight. They had one son, Paul Knight Laidlaw.

In April, 1895, H.T. was elected as the ninth mayor of Yates Center. He served in that capacity for two years.

He also served in the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas in 1911, serving one term.

H.T. "Bert" Laidlaw died in 1939, and his wife Annie in 1946. They were members and workers in the Methodist Church in Yates Center.

H.T. "Bert" Laidlaw

* * * * *

Paul K. Laidlaw lived most of his life in Yates Center working at different occupations.

On December 31, 1912, Paul K. Laidlaw was married to Miss Edith Pearl Cantrell. They were the parents of three children, Hubert Thomas (Tom), Paul C., and Alice Catherine.

Thomas Hubert married Ramola Hammons. They reside on the Laidlaw farm south of Yates Center, where Tom has carried on in the hay business. They have two children Hubert Thomas (H.T.) Jr., who married Louise Murphy, and Linda Lou who married William E. Steiner.

Paul Cantrell Laidlaw married Martha Perrin. Their children are Betty Lou (Rehorn), Paul Stanley and Thomas W. Laidlaw. Paul C. operates the Paul C. Laidlaw Insurance and Real Estate business.

Alice Catherine Laidlaw married Lawrence Smith. They have one son, Stephen Lawrence.

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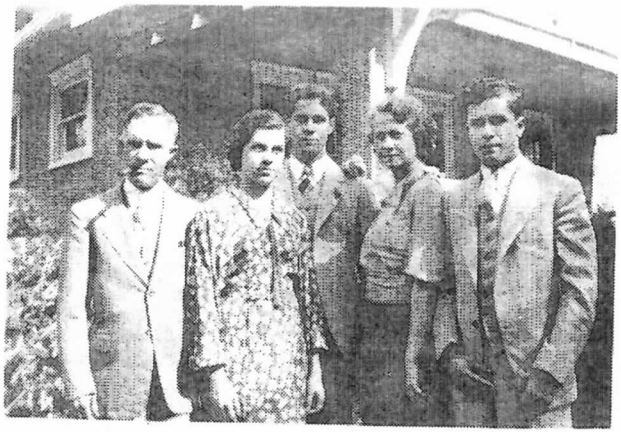
In the five generations listed we have three H.T.'s. H.T. (Bert, H.T. (Tom) and H.T. Jr. The Laidlaw Hay Co. is now in the fifth generation.



The Paul K. Laidlaw family. Picture taken in 1935. Left to right - Paul K., Alice Catherine, Hubert Thomas "Tom", Mrs. Edith Pearl, and Paul C. Laidlaw.

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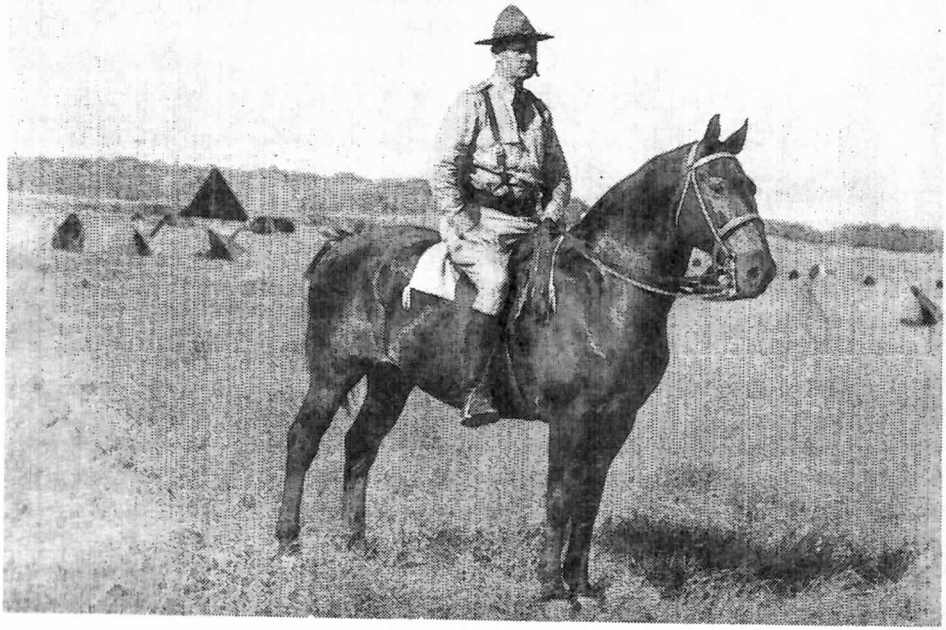


Col. Paul A. Cannady riding one of his favorite cavalry horses. Picture taken in 1938. Story of Col. Cannady follows on page 10.

A SHOOT-OUT ON THE SQUARE — YATES CENTER

(Down through a period of over 90 years, many tales have been told, with many versions as the years went by. In the Vol. 6, No. 23 - July, 1973 issue of In The Beginning, this story was told by one who saw a part of it, but was written over around 50 years later. The following was taken from the Yates Center Weekly News of March 11, 1880. The village of Yates Center was only about 4 1/2 years old.)

It all started on Christmas night at a dance on Dry Creek, in the west part of the county, at the home of James Keeney. A man named Wiley Welch, evidently from Garnett, but may have been working in that vicinity left the dance, but the weather must have been to cold for him as he took an overcoat and gloves that did not belong to him. Warren Walters was the owner of the coat and gloves, and a search was made for Welch, but he was gone.

The incident was reported to Sheriff Geo. W. Davis who had just been elected as sheriff of Woodson County a month before. Welch was found in LeRoy, arrested and bound over to the March, 1880 term of court.

About March 11, 1880, the trial was set for and to be held in the Courthouse at the northeast corner of the square. James Cannady was Deputy Sheriff and his brother Frank Cannady was deputized to guard the prisoner as there was no jail in Yates Center. Frank Cannady was walking along the south side of the square with his prisoner when all bedlam seemed to let loose. A team of black horses hitched to a farm wagon with 3 or 4 men in it, all flourishing revolvers. The team turned from the south side of the square at the southeast corner and turned north toward the courthouse.

All was confusion. Abe Smith, who had just completed his four years as sheriff, but was always in the thick of any danger mounted his horse and caught up with wagon and exchanged shots with the desperadoes in the wagon. Turning back south in front of Bacon's Drug store Abe was seen to reel in the saddle. Not knowing how bad he was hit the cry went up, "Abe is hit! Kill them, Kill them." By this time the courtroom was cleared and scores of people were trying to see what was happening and try and stay out of the way of any stray bullets.

The escape seemed to have started in front of the harness shop where Albert Alvord had taken the right hand line from the teams harness and took it into the shop for repair. That was when John Welch a brother of the prisoner stepped in front of Frank Cannady and told him to throw down his arms if he had any. Frank replied that he was not carrying any, but evidently was as he drew out a revolver and shot. The bullet lodged against Welch's spine.

As the team and wagon careened around the square James Cannady ran to his home nearby and got his shotgun. As the wagon load of men came to the harness shop the horses came to a halt. The Cannady brothers had reversed and intercepted the team.

One man stood up in the wagon with a gun in each hand, took deliberate aim at James Cannady and pulled the trigger, but the bullet snapped. Frank Cannady had by this time took the shotgun from his brother and called out to the bandit to throw down his gun, then cut loose with the shotgun loaded with light bird shot. The shot hit the man over his head and face. The man dropped into the wagon.

All accounts of this affair that had been handed down only mentioned one man being shot and that was the prisoner. There seemed to be four or five men trying to help the prisoner escape. John Welch, brother of the prisoner, who was the man killed - Curley DeLang, a half-breed Cherokee Indian, who had formerly lived on Turkey Creek, evidently was the man hit with the bird-shot. His wounds were not dangerous, but one eye was badly damaged. Jim Woods another of the group said the other men got him so drunk the night before and he did not remember much of the fight. Both Curley and Woods said that the plan was to kill both Abe Smith and Frank Cannady. Two other men Wm. Smith and Cornelious Howard were with the bandits, but the going was made so rough by Abe and the Cannadys that they evidently had no part in it. In all of the story the name of the sheriff Davis did not appear.

Abe Smith who was wearing a tight-fitting cap, had a bullet cut through the cap, another creased his cheek.

John Welch was buried in the Kalida Cemetery in an unmarked grave at county expense. The Yates Center Cemetery had not been started at that time.

Seemingly John Welch did not die immediately as the County Commissioners allowed the following bills April 12, 1880.

S. Johnson coffin for prisoner $12.00

R.B. Stephenson Medicine for prisoner - Not allowed

G.W. Davis - Sheriff fees

Coroners Jury fees on inquest; E. V. Wharton, A. Smith, Geo. Wille, Wm. Stockebrand, Aug. Lauber, Wm. Stewart, A.G. Spears.

FRANCIS (FRANK) CANNADY —

At the time of the 50th anniversary of Yates Center a reporter for the Kansas City Star came to Yates Center for a story. He was told about the "shoot-out" on the square, and then used his imagination for awhile. Among other things he wrote about the Cannadys - "There lived in the town back in the early '80s, Jim Cannady and his brother, Frank Cannady. They were peaceable citizens, but they were typical pioneers of the West. They had been plainsmen. It was said of Frank Cannady to this day that he slept with a gun under his pillow and never sat with his back to the door."

Frank Cannady was not married at the time of the battle with the bandits, and was staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Depew. Mrs. Depew wrote, quote - "Though he was highly commended for his courageous act and the faithful discharge of his duty it was a severe strain on his nerves. For many months fear dominated his life for fear that comrades of the slain man might seek to avenge his death. While working in the woods below the east of Rutledge Street quarring rock for the construction of a wall on the site of our new home near there he constantly kept a loaded gun within arms reach, but no dire consequence of the tradegy followed."

* * * * *

Francis M. Cannady was born in Harrison County, Indiana, June 17, 1856. When 16 years old he came to Woodson County with his brothers, James and Dan W. Cannady. We believe that they first came to Kalida and then to the new town of Yates Center. He seemed to take the name of Frank before coming here as all mention of him except his marriage is Frank.

Frank Cannady was 24 years old when the shoot-out happened on the square.

He remained single until July 9, 1885, when he was married to Genova Jane Butler. Genova was the widow of Francis (Frank) Butler, one of the founders of Yates Center.

Frank and Genova Butler were the parents of five children, but just three grew past infancy. They were Evaline, who married Clarence Thouroghman, Nancy Bell who married Clarence Daymude, and Daisy Mabel Butler who married Bish Eades.

Frank and Genova Cannady were the parents of three children Fannie, Walter and Paul.

Fannie married Carl Blackwood.

Walter married Stella Cris.

Frank M. Cannady was 47 years old when he died on August 15, 1903.

Genova Jane VanDolah was born at Lexington, Ill., on January 1, 1849. There she grew to womanhood and married Francis (Frank), Butler, a veteran of the Civil War, August 27, 1867. They came to LeRoy, Kansas, in spring of 1869, and in spring of 1872 moved to a farm to be known for many years later as the Butler Ranch, about two miles north and a mile and half west of where Yates Center was later built. Frank Butler was one of the strong boosters for the county seat to be moved to the townsite of Yates Center. It was told that Abner Yates wanted the town to be named Butler. Frank Butler died Feb. 5, 1882.

Genova Jane died Dec. 26, 1919, after a lingering illness. Her son Paul took care of her until he went to service in World War I. Her daughter Daisy Eades then took care of her.

Paul Alexander Cannady was the youngest child of Frank and Genova Cannady. He was born on a farm near Yates Center, January 29, 1893. Here he spent his childhood and moved into Yates Center with his family later.

He attended the Yates Center school and graduated from the Yates Center High School with the Class of 1912. He attended Kansas State College at Manhattan and the Kansas University at Lawrence where he took special work in psychology.

On September 8, 1917, Paul A. Cannady was married to Vida E. Phillips. They were the parents of three children, Paul A., Jr., Genova Jane and Betty Jean.

Paul A., Jr. married Marguarita Ezcurdia. They live in Mexico City, where he is with the American Embassy.

Genova Jane married Benson E. Brister. Their children are Nancy, Patti, Cindi and Catherine.

Betty Jean married Henry A. Snyder. Their children are Henry, Sally, Margaret, Barbara and Paul.

* * * * *

Paul A. Cannady, Sr. had 31 years of continuous military service. In 1912 he enlisted as a private in the old Company L, at Yates Center. He went through the ranks from private to Colonel. He served on the Mexican Border. Paul was a First Lieut. in Co. L, when they went into training at Lincoln Park in Yates Center, going with the 35th Division to France, and at the time of his death, July 27, 1944, he was attached to the Division Headquarters at Camp Roberts, Calif.

In 1920, Colonel Cannady was made Disciplinary Officer and Boys Advisor at Haskell Institute, the government school for Indians at Lawrence. Under his charge two additional Guard Units of Indian boys became noted as among the best drilled units in that organization. One of these C Troop 114th Cavalry, drilled and marched in parades at various places over the state. The other was the Machine Gun Co. of the 117th Infantry.

Col. Cannady became superintendent of the Boy's Industrial School at Topeka in 1934. He helped change this institution from a place of mistreated boys with many runaways to not a single runaway. After several years here he moved to Coffeyville where he was personnel director for the Oil Company Specialties, which position he held at the beginning of World War II, reporting with the Kansas National Guards, as they were called into Federal service.

He was Major Cannady when Company Commander at the Haskell school and his Troop C was the only Federally recognized Indian Cavalry.

While he left here with Co. L, during World War I, he was transferred as First Lieut. to Co. B, 139th Infantry where he saw much service in France.

In the travels to different camps over the United States, Mrs. Cannady and children accompanied Col. Cannady whenever they could.

THE KECK FAMILY AND TOWN —

On a prominent hill overlooking the prairie about 12 miles northwest of Yates Center, is the site of a once promising little town. Plans were made for a city on the prairie of North Township. But the plans for the city did not materialize so now after a few years the town of Keck is known to most people as just a place across the road from the Kimbell Ranch.

The town derived its name from Alfred A. Keck, who was a native of Davis County, Indiana, where he was born March 2, 1837. His parents were Philip and Orpha Keck.

Being reared on a farm, Alfred Keck spent his youth on his father's farm. On June 4, 1857 Alfred A. Keck was married to Miss Martha Jane McCarter, who was also a native of Indiana. They continued living on the farm until the Civil War broke out.

On June 14, 1861, Alfred Keck enlisted in Company B, Fifteenth Indiana Infantry. On Sept. 25, 1861, he was discharged on account of disability. However, a year later on Sept. 1, he again joined the army, this time in Co. I, Twenty-seventh Reg., Indiana Volunteers. Received his discharge March 25, 1865, after seeing hard service in battles of Antietam, Chancellersville, Gettysburg, Reseca, Dallas, Peach Tree Creek and others. At the battle of Antietam he was wounded in both legs, shot through left arm in front of Atlanta, and received scalp wound by bursting bomb at Kenesaw mountain.

Following his discharge from the army he came back to his wife and two children. He farmed here until October when with his family started West. He purchased 240 acres, twelve and a half miles northwest of Yates Center that had been a part of the McCord Sheep Ranch.

Alfred A. and Martha Jane Keck were the parents of eleven children. The two oldest, John P. and Wilson, were both married and did not come to Kansas with the family. A son and a daughter died as infants in Indiana. The next five were born in Indiana but came to Kansas.

William Terry Keck was born July 30, 1866. He married Edith Farnum, daughter of Jason Farnum, who lived a half mile south, a mile east and a half south of Keck.

Simpson Grant Keck was born May 30, 1868. He married Miss May Baker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Baker of Belmont township.

Hester (Hetty) Keck married Albert Smith, whose parents lived a half mile north of Keck.

Donna Catherine Keck married Benjamin Coleman who lived near Keck.

At the age of four years Homer Keck was fatally injured as he fell from the upstairs window of the home at Keck.

Herschel Keck was born in Woodson County. He married Zulu Wright.

The farm of Alfred Keck was in the S.W. 1/4 and the south half of the N.E. 1/4 of section 20, with the farmstead located in about the center of the farm. A large two story house and barns set among a grove of trees.

In the general election of November, 1887, Alfred A. Keck was elected as sheriff of Woodson County. In the election in 1889, he was re-elected to the same office. During these four years Mr. and Mrs. Keck lived in Yates Center. After his terms were over they moved back to the farm, evidently in early 1892.

At that time the ambition to establish a town began to be a reality. Abner Yates, founder of Yates Center assisted Keck in the plans for the town. It was believed that the Santa Fe Railroad would run a line from Yates Center through the Keck site to Gridley.

Alfred A. and Martha Jane Keck, in the later years of their married life in Kansas.

* * * * *

Up until July, 1886, Liberty Township covered the entire northwest part of Woodson County. An election to divide the township was voted on and on October 8, 1886 the County Commissioners divided Liberty. The west part was first called Independence Township, and later called North. The voting place for North Township was to be

the schoolhouse in District No. 57, later called the Keck school. The first election was held here in November, 1886.

Alfred A. Keck made the first ballot box to be used in the first election in North Township. This box that is about 11 by 6 by 6 inches, made of soft pine made its way into the home of Mrs. Lula (Ed.) Kimbell, and is now displayed in the Woodson County Historical Museum.

TOWN OF KECK

On October 11, 1893, a plot for the town was laid out in the northeast corner of the southeast quarter section 20, Twp. 24, R. 14. The Keck farmstead was almost a quarter mile to the west and north of the new townsite.

The townsite was surveyed by Arthur Moffett, Woodson County surveyor. There were six city blocks, each 300 feet square, alleys were 25 feet wide with all streets 60 feet wide except Kansas Avenue that bordered on the east side. (The present county road that runs by the Kimbell Ranch.)

To help promote the town Mr. Keck offered to give a free lot to anyone that would purchase one. But for some reason the town lots of Keck did not appeal to people. A few lots were sold in blocks one and two facing Kansas Avenue (the travelled road). The deeds for these lots were recorded in 1896.

While the church was not the first building at Keck we will start with it as it was in the northeast corner of the townsite. Just to the south of the church was the blacksmith shop, with the smithy Walt Paris. To the south of that was a large square - fronted building used as a general store. Across Lincoln Street to the south of the store a residence was built by George Farnum, who operated the store for awhile. In later years this house became the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Morgan, and daughters, Clara, (Mrs. Fred Cannady), Myrtle and one son.

To the west of the church was another residence that was also used as a store and post office. This was the last building to survive the town, and where Alfred A. Keck made his last stand for a town. The vision for a town on the prairie in northwest Woodson County was dimmed greatly when any plans for a railroad were not carried out.

George Farnum and his brother Jason came to this part of Kansas from Chicago in the early 1880's. For a while they lived together in a house about a mile to the west of Keck, known as the old Holloway place.

George Farnum followed the carpenter trade some and helped build the schoolhouse known as District No. 57, and later known as

Keck school. While operating the general store, Geo. Farnum although was not considered a religious man he was instrumental in getting the Methodist church there. Farnum was head carpenter in the building of the church. A.A. Keck although having only one arm helped in the building of the church.

Wilson Goreham also was one of the first to buy any lots in the town. He bought two lots in block one that were evidently where the store mentioned above was located. It was also believed that Goreham may have built this building and started the first store. This was in 1894. Geo. Farnum later bought the store from Goreham.

The post office of Juse was operated in the town of Keck before being changed to Keck. We will go back to the beginning of the Juse post office. Sometime around 1880 Jesse Pickering came to the northwest part of Woodson County and purchased a farm in the southeast quarter of section 9, Twp. 24, R. 14, that for many years was known as the G. Wolff farm and almost a showplace in its time.

In July, 1884, Pickering established a post office in his home and gave it the name of Juse, in honor his daughter Miss Jerusha Pickering. This was the first post office established that far west along Turkey Creek.

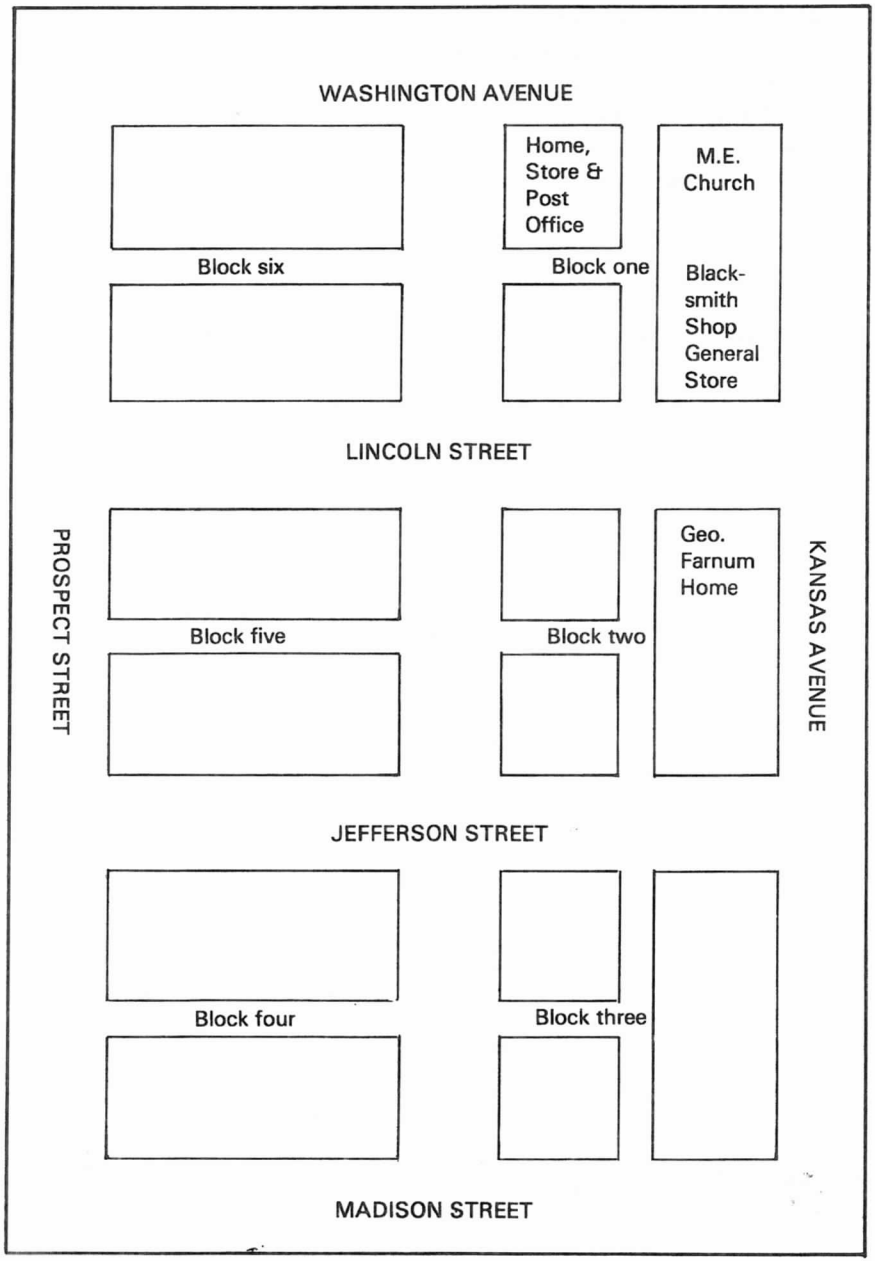
The Yates Center News of March 9, 1888 carried this item: "Jesse Pickering of North Township and postmaster of Juse was in town Friday. He had also on exhibition a miniature windmill he is making and will be very valuable when introduced."

Pickering kept the post office until April of 1890 when it was moved to the home of John W. Pace. Mr. Pace lived along the north side of Turkey Creek less than a mile north of Keck.

John Pace kept the post office for about four years and on May 18, 1894, Wilson S. Goreham who had purchased two lots in the new townsite of Keck and moved the post office there.

On June 17, 1895, George A. Farnum became the new postmaster of Juse and moved it into his store at Keck. The post office remained in Juse until it was changed over to Keck on January 10, 1896, making Farnum the first postmaster of Keck. Besides being postmaster Geo. Farnum had a general store, also an ice house where every winter he would saw chunks of ice from the nearby ponds and creeks and pack them away in sawdust in the ice house to be used the next year.

TOWN OF KECK



Surveyed October 11, 1893
Arthur Moffett, County Surveyer
Alfred A. Keck, Owner

On June 14, 1897, Alfred A. Keck became the postmaster of Keck. In the meantime the large square-fronted store building of Geo. Farnums had burned down. Alfred Keck had built the house just to the west of the church that he used as the store and post office. Mr. Keck kept the store and post office for the next seven and a half years. But the bubble had bursted - the dream of a town had faded away.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Keck were all grown, married and moved away. Sometime in 1904 the Keck's left the vicinity that for many years after kept their name.

On December 12, 1904, Henry H. Angell became the next postmaster. Angell had been operating the blacksmith shop at Keck, later moving to Yates Center.

The next postmaster at Keck was Wilson T. McQueary who lived on the farm across the road that is now the Kimbell Ranch. McQueary was postmaster from April 7, 1906, until May of 1907. Edward B. Morgan was appointed postmaster but declined the office and on September 30, 1907 the Keck post office was discontinued. It was in August, 1907 that Lyle Silvey organized the R.F.D. No. 4 that ran by the townsite of Keck.

During the life of the post offices of Juse and Keck there were post offices at Coloma (Pleasant View), Burt and Finney. A star route with a carrier making the trip from Yates Center to these post offices was necessary. Carrying the mail from these post offices was done by horseback and a one-horse cart. David Askren, an early day pioneer in this area was one of the first of these carriers. In the winter of 1898, John Neufeld, who was feeding cattle for Ed Kimbell, carried this mail, mostly by horseback.

In 1902, James Morgan moved to Keck from his farm from about three miles down Turkey Creek. He carried the mail back and forth from Keck to Yates Center until the rural route was established. During the change of postmasters, his daughter Miss Clara Morgan (Mrs. Fred Cannady) was acting postmaster.

* * * * *

BLACKSMITHS —

We mentioned Walt Paris as the first blacksmith at Keck, and later Henry Angell. A blacksmith shop was as important to the people of that area as a garage or filling station is at the present.

Forrest Randall, an early day blacksmith and merchant at Burt and Vernon operated a blacksmith shop at Keck for awhile during the winter of 1895-96. During this time George Miller came to the Randall shop wanting a horse fitted with shoes. Randall had no iron for horseshoes except a wagon wheel tire. This was heated cut up and shaped into horseshoes to shod Miller's horse.

Another blacksmith there for a while was named Bumgardner, who later ran a blacksmith shop in Gridley. He originated a different kind of shovel for the old one-row cultivators that for years was referred to as the "Bumgardner Shovel".

Around 1902, a German family named Mecklenburg moved onto the place now known as the Kimbell Ranch. William Mecklenburg was a wagon maker and while at Keck he made two wagons, the bolsters, coupling pole, tongue and wheel spokes were all made out of native hedge wood (Osage Orange).

* * * * *

When A.A. Keck kept the store at the little village he not only kept clothing and general goods, but also farm machinery and implements. He sold one of the first riding cultivators known as the "Dutch Uncle". It sold for around $24.00.

At one time the area around Keck was fairly well populated with many fine farm homes. We would like to name a few of them, although the list will not be complete. Besides those mentioned others who may have traded and got their mail at Keck were: George Campbell, Jason Farnum, W.J. Mitchell...Wilson, John Holmquest, George Miller, Henry Miller, Asa Miller, Jesse Chambers, George McCartney, B.H. Peck Ranch, Ed Kimbell, Wm. Truskett, Charles Easumm, Lewis Smith, N.L. Beaver...Ferris, Henry Burns, Charles McGinnis, John Simpson, M.M. Osborne, Toogood.....Lawton.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Keck moved to the home of their daughter Hester (Mrs. Albert Smith) at Moore, Okla. Here Alfred A. Keck died on February 14, 1910 (age 83).

While the Keck family was fairly large and well known for many years, at the present time there are none of them living in Woodson County.

Mrs. Martha Jane Keck lived to be over a century old. On her 102nd birthday she was living with her daughter Mrs. Donna Coleman, in Kansas City, Mo. Martha Jane died October 6, 1942, at Moore, Okla. at the age of 104. Continued next issue.

YATES CENTER NEWSPAPERS — Y.C. NEWS CENTENNIAL

The Yates Center News was the first paper to make its appearance in the town and after over one hundred years is still the only newspaper published here. It had its beginning in May, 1877 as the Weekly News, with Steinberger and E.W. "Ret" Baker as publisher and editor. The News has been published continuous for one hundred years. Steinberger soon retired and Baker continued publication until May, 1878, when he sold out to S.P. Bacon and J.B. Fry. The name was then changed to the Yates Center News. Just two years later the office again changed hands going to W.H. Slavens and G.W. Fry, who ran it from 1880 until February 27, 1882, when it was purchased by George E. Faler. Faler had come to Woodson County in summer of 1861, from near Trenton, Mo. He was a member of Company F, Ninth Kansas Volunteer Calvary, that was first organized at Neosho Falls.

While editor of the News, George Faler printed much news about the Civil War veterans of Woodson County during the over four years that he published it. There were several hundred Civil War Veterans in the county at that time.

W.H. Slavens, mentioned above came to Woodson County in 1868, from Indiana. He was an attorney, and became editor of the Neosho Falls Advertiser from 1871 until 1873.

In July, 1886, Richard H. "Dick" Trueblood took over the management of the Yates Center News. In October, 1886, the News was only a four page, but the pages were large, with eight columns. The pages were 20 inches by 26 inches.

The present News is made up in eight columns, but is 17 by 23 inches in size.

In 1886, the publishers and proprieters were N.B. Buck and R.H. Trueblood, with W.H. Slavens as Editor.

For a few issues at one time the paper was known as News-Tribune. In 1895 it was back to the Yates Center News, with R.H. Trueblood and F.L. Stephenson as editors and publishers. It was perhaps through this period and up until the death of R.H. Trueblood that the paper became the popular, prosperous and influential weekly newspaper. It has always been Republican in politics, and at times seemed to be more political than news.

The Yates Center News remained in the Trueblood family until 1941, when it was sold to W.C. Coates. R.H. Trueblood died in 1936. His brother Wm. "Bill' Trueblood worked at the News for many years, and was still in the office when sold out.

There were several other newspapers that started up in Yates Center down through its 100 years. Some very short-lived and others that kept in the business for quite a few years. The first of these was The Argus, that was established in the winter of 1882, by W.H. Jones. We do not know whether W.H. Jones could be called a "tramp" printer or not but he seemed to have a habit of starting a newspaper and selling it and not long after to start another one. Jones soon sold the Argus to N.B. Buck, who was another one of the old time printers that dabbled in the buying and selling of newspapers. Buck was operating the Argus when the south side of the square was destroyed by fire in 1882. This fire completely destroyed the Argus plant. N.B. Buck then sold it to J.P. and J.H. Bell, who operated it for a short time and then sold it to the Yates Center News in 1884.

Before starting up the Argus in mid-winter of 1882, W.H. Jones had started and was the editor of the Woodson County Advocate at Kalida, during the years of 1872-73, when the county seat fight was in progress. While Jones was listed as editor the firm name was W.H. Jones & Co., Proprietors. J. Pickett and L.K. Wright were other members of the company. Pickett was County Attorney and lawyer at Kalida, and the paper was boosting Kalida for the county seat over Defiance and Neosho Falls.

The Woodson Democrat was established by Dr. E.V. Wharton, in 1884. The next editor of the Democrat was George B. McCartney, a brother-in-law of E.V. Wharton. The Democrat was later sold to R.R. Wells, who was operating it when the east side of the square was mostly burned out in 1893. The plant was not started up after the fire.

The Sun was the next paper to make its appearance. That was in 1886, and the editor was J.A. Overby. Later it was called the Independent-Sun. After a couple of years this paper was absorbed by the News in 1888.

The Tribune was started in January, 1889, by that "irrepressible" W.H. Jones. He took on a partner James H. Hale. This paper lasted about the usual length of time, possibly a couple of years, and was taken over by the News.

With the political Farmers Alliance in 1890, came the Farmers Advocate, published in 1891 by A.E. and N.S. Macoubrie. They stayed with the paper until 1896. Other editors were Hudson of Eureka, and E.G. Kinyon and later Fred Wilkerson. After the turn of the century it became the Woodson County Advocate and the editor was F.M. Patterson. At the death of Mr. Patterson, his wife took

over the management as Mrs. F.M. Patterson, Proprietor. Mrs. Patterson had written a column for the paper for several years.

On September 14, 1894, The Woodson Gazette made its first appearance, with S.H. Hogueland as publisher. Hogueland was a real estate broker and after a brief attempt the Gazette went to the News. In the final issue of the Gazette, Mr. Hogueland wrote - "Upon a thourough canvass of the situation here we find the newspaper field here overworked, and believing it to the best interest to the Republican party to give the entire patronage of the party to one paper we make the change to consolidate with the News". The Gazette at that time was .75 cents a year in advance.

The Sunflower Sentinel, a monthly was established in September, 1896, and put out four volumes before ceasing publication. The publisher was E.H. Hogueland. The paper was mostly real estate ads and the largest advertiser was S.H. Hogueland. The paper boosted Woodson County and Yates Center.

The Saturday Tribune started up on February 15, 1902, and ceased publication on November 8th of the same year.

Along about 1894 the Woodson Republican was established by Harve Bristow. This paper had a short life also, and was moved to Altamont, Kans., and the subscription list was turned over to the News. A few months later this outfit was moved back to Yates Center and another weekly paper, the Republican was started and lasted for a brief period and was gathered into the folds of the Yates Center News.

Around 1900, as it had no specific date on it was published the Yates Center Real Estate Journal, by Hogueland and Freeman. Like the Sunflower Sentinel it was almost all real estate as Hogueland and Freeman were real estate brokers.

The Woodson County Journal, listed as a Progressive paper was established October 3, 1912 by C. Borin. This was never a large paper, but carried on for several years. Mr. Borin sold the Journal to Ernest L. Hubbard in 1934. He was a young, energetic fellow and at once locked horns with a political click of the county. Perhaps he was too energetic or else he tromped too hard as the Journal was soon taken over by the News.

Along in 1935, Merton L. Post established the Woodson County Post. This was perhaps a revival of the old Woodson County Post from Neosho Falls. The new Post established some old run down machinery and a very small circulation.

Hobson, a brother-in-law of Post, took over the publication of the new Woodson County Post. Hobson took over on a shoestring in the stone building on the east side of the present bowling alley on Rutledge Street.

Evidently Hobson's shoestring broke or perhaps Hobson did as in January 1936, the Covert's took over the Post. Harry L. Covert and wife Mary, their son Cranston and wife Madeline started out on a Yates Center newspaper career that lasted over 30 years. The newspaper business was not new to Harry L. Covert, and while they started in 1936, in the midst of the Great Depression and drouth years the paper seemed to grow in subscriptions, ads and in general.

At the death of R.H. Trueblood, Sr., the newspaper went to his oldest son, Richard Trueblood. The latter did not stay in the business long but sold out to W.C. Coates in 1941. Coates however did not keep it very long until he sold out. The News was purchased by Harry L. Covert, who was still making the Post pay out. The two papers were combined under the name of the Yates Center News on October, 1942. The Woodson County Post going the way of many other newspapers of the county.

The Covert family operated the Yates Center News until October 1, 1968 when it was sold to the Woodson County Publishing Co., Inc., with Richard W. Classen as editor and publisher. Under the present publisher the News took on a more modern turn and in May, 1974, it started being printed by the off-set method. The old large printing presses were removed from the office. The linotype machines are still there, but have been replaced by a modern machine called a Compugraphic-Compuwriter Jr. The Toronto Republican was also taken over by the News.

(Just a personal note about the later Yates Center papers. The writer of these articles about these papers first started writing for the Woodson County Post, while the editor Hobson was publishing it. We continued with the Coverts and became a good friend of Cranston Covert, and like many others were much grieved when the word came that he had made the supreme sacrifice and given his life for his country on the Battlefield near Metz, France, September 16, 1944.

In later years we enjoyed working with Ralph Johnson. While writing for the Coverts for around 32 years we almost felt like we had an interest in the paper! How much longer we will write for the Yates Center News is a big question mark, for it has been 42 years now.)

The owner now is still the Woodson County Publishing Co., with Robert Ward, Managing Editor.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
John V. Glades Agency
Woodson Co. Co-op
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beine
Hi-Way Food Basket
Bill Herman
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gualding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J.C. Schnell
W. D. Smith & Son Furniture & Undertaking
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glenn Shaw
Pringle Ranch - J. W. & J. Richard W.K. & Barbara Stockebrand
Herring Hardware & Supply
Woody's Cafe
Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell
Edwin H. Bideau Associate Agencies - Chanute
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank - Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Wilma Mark
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor - Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte - Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton Wrampe
E.E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Gambles Friendly Store
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
E. Guy Reid
J & W Manufacturing Co.
Everybody's Grocery